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BLACKBURN RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
—REPORT—

Year ending Dec. 31st, 1915.

BLACKBURN :
W. HULME, Boro' Press, 12, St. Peter Street.

WOODVILLE,
 PRESTON NEW ROAD,
 BLACKBURN,
 MAY 27th, 1916.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Blackburn
 Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1915, on the health and sanitary condition of the fifteen townships composing the Blackburn Rural Sanitary District.

The population of the District according to the census of 1911 is 9,626, a total which includes the inmates of the two Institutions of the District—the Chorlton and Manchester Joint Epileptic Colony with 405 inmates and the Lancashire Inebriates' Reformatory with 301 inmates. Hitherto the population upon which the birth and death rates have been calculated has been the census population including or excluding the Institutional population according to whether a gross or net rate was required. For 1915, however, a fresh basis of calculation had to be discovered. Men of military age have been removed from their usual place of residence and sent into camps, garrison towns or abroad. The adult population has largely migrated from its original area to an area in which works of national importance have been started or increased. Therefore it will be seen that some areas have been largely depleted of the adult population—particularly males, whilst other areas have been much more densely populated than they were formerly. The Registrar General has estimated the population of the District as 8,853, a figure which does not include the inmates of the Institutions—these being distributed evenly over the whole country. For calculating the birth-rate the 1911 population is to be used, but for the death-rate the population is to be regarded as 8,853.

The area of the District is 20,150 acres, and I estimate that there are approximately 2,188 occupied houses, giving 4·04 inhabitants to each inhabited house. The District is a scattered one, the population mainly devoted to farming, but some of the townships form residential suburbs of the County Borough of Blackburn, while in four of the Townships there are one or more cotton mills affording employment to many of the inhabitants.

The statistics for 1915 are to some extent less favourable than those of 1914. The birth-rate is lower, and the death-rate is higher, but the infantile death-rate shows a decrease. The death-rate from Zymotic Diseases is lower while that from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs shows an increase. There has been a marked decrease in the occurrence of Infectious Disease and there has been no epidemic in the district.

The number of births registered during the year and the birth-rate per thousand of the population in each township was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 of the population
Mellor	9	13	22	19.2
Balderstone	5	3	8	17.6
Ramsgreave	6	7	13	30.9
Pleasington	3	2	5	10.5
Tockholes	1	2	3	8.2
Livesey	14	16	30	16.9
Yate & Pickup Bank. 10	3	3	15	31.5
Eccleshill	5	5	8	23.3
Billington	20	15	35	17.5
Wilpshire	7	6	13	12.1
Salesbury	0	3	3	11.3
Dinckley	1	0	1	13.3
Clayton-le-Dale	3	3	6	14.8
Osbaldeston	1	1	2	13.0
Witton	0	0	0	—
Total	85	79	164	18.3

In calculating the birth-rate of Billington and of the District the inmates of the Institutions have been excluded from the population.

The total number of births was 164 (85 males and 79 females) and the birth-rate was 18.3 per thousand of the population. In 1914 there were 190 births and the birth-rate was 21.3 while in 1913 there were 180 births and the rate was 20.1. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1915 was 21.9 per thousand of the population.

The number of deaths registered during the year, and the death-rate per thousand of the population in each township was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 of the Population.
Mellor	3	3	6	5.2
Balderstone ..	3	3	6	13.2
Ramsgreave ..	1	1	2	4.7
Pleasington ..	2	3	5	10.5
Tockholes ..	4	3	7	19.3
Livesey	10	7	17	9.6
Yate and Pickup Bank..	2	3	5	10.5
Eccleshill.. ..	4	5	9	26.3
Billington ..	25	15	40	18.3
Wilpshire ..	9	12	21	19.6
Salesbury ..	0	5	5	18.8
Dinckley	0	0	0	—
Clayton-le-Dale ..	1	3	4	9.9
Osbaldeston ..	6	1	7	45.7
Witton	0	1	1	27.0
Total	70	65	135	13.5

The death-rate of Billington is calculated on a population of 2184 and that of the whole district on one of 8,853—the estimated figures of the Registrar General.

There were 135 deaths in the District (70 males and 65 females) and the death-rate was 13.5. In 1914 there were 115 deaths and the death-rate was 12.1. In 1913 there were 118 deaths and the death-rate was 12.5. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1915 was 14.8.

Thirty deaths of "non-residents" occurred in the district, principally in the public Institutions, and 15 deaths of "residents" took place outside the District, chiefly in the Blackburn Royal Infirmary and the Blackburn Union Workhouse.

The following tables give these deaths classified as to cause and age.

Deaths of "non-residents" occurring in the District.

Cause.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years	65 years and upwards
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Epilepsy	—	—	—	2	8	3	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Accident	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cancer	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Tuberculosis.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	1	—	—	2	16	10	1

Deaths of "residents" occurring outside the District.

Cause	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and upwards
Senile Decay	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carcinoma (Cancer)....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cholelithiasis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chronic Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Thrombo-phlebitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gen. Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Arterio-sclerosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Accident.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cancer	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	1	—	2	—	2	4	6

10 deaths of infants under one year of age took place in the District. The rate of deaths under one year per thousand births was 60·9. In 1914 the rate was 89. In 1913 the rate was 105. The infantile death-rate for England and Wales for 1915 was 110. The greater number of these deaths in the District were due either to congenital disease or nutritional defects, and many of the latter are preventable. The deaths were distributed amongst the townships as follows:—Livesey 4; Yate and Pickup Bank, 1; Billington, 1; Wilpshire, 1; Tockholes, 1; Clayton-le-Dale, 1; Osbaldeston, 1.

Cause of Death.	under 1 week	weeks 1-2	2-3	3-4	Total under 1 month	months 1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Premature Births	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Total	5	—	—	—	5	1	2	—	2	10

There were four deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases (Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever Typhus, simple, continued and Enteric; and Diarrhœa). These four deaths were caused as follows:—Measles, 1; Typhoid Fever, 1; Croup, 1; Whooping Cough, 1. The Zymotic death-rate was 0·45. In 1914 the rate was 0·63, and in 1913, 1·23. The deaths were distributed among the townships as follows:—Livesey—Measles, 1; Typhoid Fever, 1. Balderstone—Croup, 1. Pleasington—Whooping Cough, 1.

There were five deaths from Phthisis during the year, giving a death-rate of 0·56. In 1914 there were six deaths and a death-rate of 0·67.

Township	Sex	Age	Occupation
Billington	Female	19	Domestic Servant
Livesey	Male	53	Stone Quarryman
"	Female	54	Formerly Cotton Cardroom-hand
Balderstone	Male	71	Farmer
Salesbury	Female	25	Cotton Weaver

There were 33 deaths from diseases of the Respiratory Organs and the death-rate 3·7. In 1914 there were 25 deaths and the rate 2·7.

The mortality from all causes occurred at the following ages:—under 1 year, 10; 1 and under 2 years, 2; 2 and under 5 years, 2; 5 and under 15 years, 4; 15 and under 25 years, 2; 25 and under 45 years, 21; 45 and under 65 years, 32; 65 years and upwards, 47.

The mortality classified as to its causes was as follows:—Enteric Fever, 1; Measles, 1; Scarlet Fever, 1; Whooping Cough, 1; Phthisis, 5; Diphtheria and Croup, 1; Cancer, 8; Rheumatic Fever, 2; Meningitis, 1; Organic Heart Disease, 27; Bronchitis, 17; Pneumonia, 15; other diseases of Respiratory Organs, 1; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 1; Nephritis and Brights Disease, 6; other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition, 2; Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth, 5; Violent Deaths excluding Suicide, 1; Suicide, 2; other defined diseases, 19; Diseases ill-defined or unknown, 3.

In these two tables the deaths of 30 "non-residents" have been excluded and the deaths of 15 "residents" included.

Causes of deaths in the townships were as follows:—Mellor—Paralysis, 1; Heart Disease, 4; other defined Diseases, 1. Balderstone—other diseases of Respiration, 1; Cancer, 1; Bronchitis, 1; Croup, 1; Pneumonia, 1; Phthisis, 1. Clayton-le-Dale—Heart Disease, 2; Congenital Debility, 1; Bronchitis, 1. Ramsgreave—Bronchitis, 1; Pneumonia, 1. Witton—Nephritis, 1. Pleasington—Heart Disease, 2; Pneumonia, 1; Epilepsy, 1; Whooping Cough, 1. Tockholes—Bronch. Pneumonia, 1; Bronchitis, 2; Nephritis, 1; Cancer, 1; Tuberc. Meningitis, 1; other defined Diseases, 1. Livesey—Measles, 1; Premature Birth, 1; Meningitis, 1; Typhoid, 1; Phthisis, 2; Congenital Debility, 1; Suicide, 2; Heart Disease, 3; other defined Diseases, 2; Cancer, 1; Broncho Pneumonia, 2. Yate and Pickup Bank—Bronchitis, 2; Brights Disease, 1; Heart Disease, 1; Suicide, 1. Eccleshill—Nephritis, 1; Suicide, 1; Pneumonia, 3; Bronchitis, 1; Rheumatism, 1; Senility, 1; Heart Disease, 1. Billington—Parturition, 1; Premature Birth, 1; Nephritis, 1; Senility, 1; Eclampsia, 1; Bronchitis, 5; Phthisis, 1; Pneumonia, 2; Epilepsy, 9; Suicide, 1; Heart Disease, 8; Broncho Pneumonia, 1; Diabetes, 1; Cancer, 1; Brights Disease, 1; Accident, 1; other defined Diseases, 4. Wilpshire—Broncho Pneumonia, 1; Pneumonia, 1;

Bronchitis, 4; Epilepsy, 5; Senility, 1; Heart Disease, 6; Cancer, 2; and diseases ill-defined, 1. Salesbury—Bronchitis, 1; other defined Diseases, 2; Rheumatism, 1; Phthisis, 1. Osbaldeston—Bronchitis, 1; Heart Disease, 2; Congenital Disease, 1; Accident, 1; Pneumonia, 1; other defined Diseases, 1. Only the deaths registered in the district have been included in this Table.

The following table gives the number of Births and Deaths, the Birth and Death Rates, and the Infantile, Phthisis and Zymotic Death Rates for the whole of the District for the ten years, 1905-1914, with the averages of those years:—

Year	Births		Deaths under 1 year of age		Deaths at all ages		Zymotic		Phthisis	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Death rate	Death rate	Death rate	Death rate
1904	182	22.09	23	126	111	13.4	1.45	0.60		
1905	139	16.8	7	50	93	11.2	0.60	0.60		
1906	192	23.8	18	93	108	13.1	0.60	0.60		
1907	160	18.2	20	125	116	13.2	1.02	1.1		
1908	199	23.06	14	73	104	11.8	0.12	0.72		
1909	176	21.3	17	96	128	14.6	1.2	0.24		
1910	173	21.0	13	75	108	12.3	0.60	0.84		
1911	148	16.5	20	135	119	12.6	0.56	0.67		
1912	166	18.6	18	108	108	11.4	0.44	0.67		
1913	180	20.1	19	105	118	12.5	1.23	0.67		
Average for years										
1905	172	20.06	16	95	111	12.4	0.70	0.67		
1914	164	18.3	10	61	135	13.5	0.45	0.56		

23 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year. Of these 2 were Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas, 16 of Scarlet Fever and 4 of Enteric Fever. These cases were distributed amongst the townships as follows:— In Livesey, Scarlet Fever, 4; Enteric Fever, 2. In Baldertone—Diphtheria, 1; Erysipelas, 1. In Clayton-le-Dale—Scarlet Fever, 1; Enteric Fever, 1. In Mellor—Scarlet Fever, 1. In Wilpshire—Scarlet Fever, 1. In Yate and Pickup Bank—Enteric Fever, 1. In Ramsgreave—Scarlet Fever, 4. In Billington—Diphtheria, 1. In Tockholes—Scarlet Fever, 1. In Salesbury—Scarlet Fever, 1.

The age distribution of these notified cases of Infectious Diseases was as follows:—

Disease	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 years and upwards.
Diphtheria	—	1	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	3	10	1	2	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total	—	4	11	1	5	2

Of the 16 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 3 occurred in January, 1 in February, 3 in March, 1 in April, 2 in June, 1 in July, 1 in August, 1 in September, 1 in October and 2 in November. Three cases were removed to Hospitals as follows:—

Township	No. of cases	Hospital
Livesey	2	Chorley Fever Hospital
Ramsgreave	1	Blackburn Fever Hospital

One case of Typhoid Fever was removed from Livesey to Chorley Fever Hospital. 24 cases of Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year. Of these, 16 cases were notified on Form A (*i.e.*—the first notification), 4 cases were notified on Form C (patients admitted to Institutions), and 4 cases were notified on Form D (patients leaving Institutions). All these cases were Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Each case has been visited and precautionary advice and instructions are given with a view to preventing the spread of the disease, and for removing conditions favourable to infection. Pocket spit cups are supplied free, and on the removal of a case by death or otherwise, the house is disinfected. The cases of Tuberculosis were distributed among the townships as follows:—Livesey, 8; Billington, 6; Balderstone, 3; Ramsgreave, 4; Salesbury, 1; Tockholes, 1; Eccleshill, 1. The age distribution of these cases were as follows:—5 to 15 years, 1; 15 to 25 years, 3; 25 to 45 years, 17; 45 years and upwards, 3.

Nothing further has been done with regard to the provision of an Isolation Hospital for the District, as no arrangement has been come to with any neighbouring district for a joint Hospital. Cases are received, by arrangement, at times into the Blackburn Borough Fever Hospital, the Chorley Fever Hospital and the Withnell Fever Hospital.

There are 16 factories and 4 workshops on the Register, 16 visits were paid to these places and the sanitary conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

I have visited periodically and systematically the whole of the District.

The houses in the District are being visited in accordance with the provisions of the Housing and Town-Planning Act, 1909. During 1915, 130 houses were inspected, bringing the total number of houses since the inspection began to 1,030. Many defects, mostly of a minor structural nature, were discovered and remedied on the owner's attention being drawn to the matter. 4 dwelling-houses have been considered unfit for human habitation; 4 representations have been made to Authority with a view to making closing orders; 1 closing order has been made; 80 dwelling-houses (in which were defects) were remedied without making closing orders; 1 dwelling-house has been demolished; 9 new houses have been built by private enterprise; 8 privies were converted, 4 to water closets and 4 to pail closets, also 26 pail closets were converted to water closets; 1 ashpit was abolished and 9 ashbins substituted. As examples of other defects discovered and remedied under this Act, I may mention stopped-up drains, foul closet basins, dirty yards to cleanse, defective troughs rain-water pipes and slop-pipes, &c.

The various sewage disposal works in the District have been under my observation and have worked satisfactorily. In Langho there are open septic tanks, bacteria beds and land filtration. In Wilpshire—open tanks, settlement tanks and filtration areas. In Mellor Brook there are closed septic tanks, and single contact filters. Mellor, Eccleshill, Pleasington and Livesey have tanks and land irrigation.

I have examined the water supplies of the various townships. Mellor Brook is supplied from the Manchester Corporation mains, other parts of the District are supplied from the Blackburn Corporation mains, while still other parts derive the supply from private reservoirs and wells. The following Bacteriological Specimens have been taken for examination—Swabs (suspected Diphtheria) 1; Sputum (suspected Phthisis) 3; Blood 1.

Periodically I have visited the Cowsheds and Dairies in the District and found that their condition was improved. Where structural and other defects were found and pointed out to the owners, they were usually attended to at once.

154 of the farms in the District are registered as being accupied by cow-keepers and purveyors of milk. 357 visits were paid to these places. There are no retailers of milk in the District with the exception of these. Flies are carriers of disease and are particularly likely to contaminate milk. Dairy farmers and others should attempt to keep down the number of flies, as manure heaps are among their chief breeding places. Much is written on the extermination of the fly as soon as the fly appears, but "killing the fly" is an extremely unsatisfactory and incomplete means of coping with the evil. Flies breed in dirt, and one may say "no dirt—no flies." Dirt and decaying matter should not be allowed to collect. Ash-bins and ash-pits should be covered. Manure heaps can be treated with borax and water which destroys the larvæ of the fly without detracting from the fertilising properties of the manure.

No action has been taken in causing dairy cows to be examined for tuberculosis, and no carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis. On one occasion a carcass of a sheep in an unsound condition was exposed for sale. The carcass was seized and legal proceedings instituted, where the magistrates imposed penalties amounting to £10/5/0.

The slaughter-houses in the District have been visited and found to be in a satisfactory state. The premises of butchers and fishmongers in the District have been periodically visited and inspected.

In the township of Livesey the scavenging is done by the Rural District Council by contract, in the remainder of the District it is done by the owners and occupiers of the houses. This has been satisfactory with the exception of the township of Ramsgrave.

209 notices to abate nuisances were served and most of the nuisances were subsequently abated. Among the nuisances complained of were the following—To empty ashes receptacles, 35; dirty houses to cleanse, 4; stopped-up drains, 6; foul closet basins, 3; dirty yards to cleanse, 7; privies converted into pails, 4; defective casing trough and rain-water pipes, 5; slaughter-house floors re-laid, 1; midden-stead abolished, 1; defective slop pipes, 9; defective yard surfaces, 6; defective ashes receptacles, 2; defective excreta pails, 1; slaughter houses to limewash, 2; to remove slaughter-house offal, 1; cellar to cleanse, 3.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. R. POLLARD,

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1915.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report giving details of the work done by me during the year 1915.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT AND REMOVAL OF NUISANCES.

As in previous years regular inspections of the courts, yards and passages within the District have been made, and the nuisances discovered during such inspections have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the various Health Acts.

The nuisances discovered were of a varied nature, many being of such a character as to require no structural alteration to the property to procure abatement, therefore, in many instances, verbal information to the persons responsible was sufficient to bring about the desired results.

In cases, however, where the nuisances arose from structural defects, &c., or from the absence of sanitary appliances, the usual informal notices were served upon the owners.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Visits and re-visits to houses	92
Notices and letters served	209
Slaughter-house inspections	149
Cowshed inspections	357
Houses disinfected.....	23
Drains tested	19
Visits to infected houses	240
Visits to refuse tip.....	56

NUISANCES ABATED.

To empty ashes receptacles.....	35
Dirty houses to cleanse	4
Stopped-up drains	6
Foul closet basin	3
Dirty yards to cleanse	7
Privies converted to pails	4
Defective easing troughs and rain-water pipes	5
Slaughterhouse floor re-laid	1
Midden-stead abolished.....	1
Defective slop-pipes	9
Defective yard surfaces.....	6
Defective ashes receptacles	2
Defective excreta pails	1
Slaughter-houses to limewash.....	2
To remove slaughter-house offal	1
Cellars to cleanse	3

The butchers and fishmongers who carry on their business within our District are kept under close observation with a view of preventing any unsound food being offered for sale.

On one occasion, a carcase of a sheep, in an unsound condition was exposed for sale. The carcase was seized, and legal proceedings instituted, when the magistrates imposed penalties amounting to £10/5/0.

The slaughter-houses in the District are periodically inspected, and the carcases of meat are thoroughly examined before being offered sale. During such inspections I always find a willingness on the part of the butcher to show me all internal organs thereby making the inspections more uniform.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

During the year twelve smoke observations were taken, each consisting of one hour's duration, and on no occasion was there any need for complaint.

INHABITED TRAVELLING VANS.

During the year six inspections were made of travelling vans used for human habitation. No cases of overcrowding were met with, and they were found to be in a very clean condition.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two-hundred-and-forty visits were paid to infected houses, and each case was thoroughly investigated with a view to discovering the cause or origin of the disease.

Printed instructions were left at each house as to the isolation of the infected articles, &c., connected with the disease.

Disinfectants are supplied free, and on the recovery of the patient the clothes and bedding, &c., are fumigated in the room with formaldehyde.

In some cases the clothing and bedding from infected houses are disinfected with the Blackburn Corporation steam disinfecter.

In case the infected person was a child attending school, the school authorities were informed and instructions from the Medical Officer are given to keep all contacts (if any) away from school until the Medical Attendant certifies the house to be free from infection and the infected rooms disinfected.

The free supply of disinfectants within the district is duly appreciated.

From my inspections during the year I find that people are still taking greater interest in matters relating to sanitation in and around their dwellings, and from this increased interest an improvement in health must be effected.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

We have on our register one-hundred-and-fifty-four cowkeepers and purveyors of milk.

During the year three-hundred-and-fifty-seven visits were made.

The following improvements have been carried out during the year—

To re-pave cowshed floors	15
To repair cowshed floors	13
To re-pave stable floors	1
To pave yard surfaces	3
To remove drains to outside of cowsheds	23
Additional lighting to cowsheds	16
Additional ventilation to cowsheds	16
Cowsheds to cleanse	14
Cowsheds to limewash	11
Keeping horses in cowsheds	1
Pig-sty ventilating into cowshed	1
To remove manure	9
To empty manure tanks	6
Midden-stead abolished	1
Additional ventilation to dairies	7

A report was made to the Council as regards the conditions and situation of a cowshed situate in Ainsworth Court, Cherry Tree.

The Council communicated with the owners in regard to this matter, when they decided to permanently close the structure. This has been done, and a splendid improvement effected.

A cowshed attached to Lower Fowler Height Farm, Livesey, has also been permanently closed as a cowshed owing to its insanitary condition.

A new cowshed has been constructed and the conditions are greatly improved.

Walks Farm, Mellor, has also been closed as a milk producing farm owing to its insanitary condition, and at the expiration of the present tenant's lease, I am informed that the buildings are to be disused.

HOUSING AND TOWN-PLANNING, &c., ACT, 1909.

During the year a great amount of time has been devoted to making inspections of houses under the Housing and Town-Planning, &c., Act.

No fewer than one-hundred-and-thirty houses were inspected under the above-named Act, and the defects discovered were of a varied nature, as follows :

To repair defective chimney stacks.....	26
To cover ashpits	3
To provide ashes receptacles (ash-bins provided)	9
To re-drain premises and connect to sewer	19
Pail-closets converted to water-closets.....	26
Privies converted to pail closets	4
Common yards paved.....	1
Defective floors repaired	2
Windows made to open one-half their area	20
Absence of easing troughs.....	9
Defective casing troughs	6
Damp walls to render dry	8
Dirty houses to cleanse	2

Ceilings to limewash	10
Defective slop pipes.....	9
Additional lighting to living rooms	1
Houses closed (without closing orders being made)	4
House demolished	1
House closed with Magistrate's Order.....	1
Yard surfaces repaired	3
Additional ventilation to bedroom	2
Defective plaster on walls	9

The house known as "Croasdale's", Whinney Lane, Langho, has been demolished owing to its insanitary condition. The owner taking this course in preference to carrying out the necessary alterations.

I am, however, glad to be able to report this has been replaced by a new house on a more modern principle.

A splendid improvement has been carried out at Brownhill Cottages, Ramsgreave.

Originally there were three houses of a very large type, situate near Brownhill Arms, which were insufficiently drained, improperly ventilated, yards unflagged, &c.

During the year the owner has carried out extensive alterations and converted the three houses into six houses, each of which have separate yards, fresh water closets, pantries and good living accommodation, and in two of the houses baths have been installed.

Each of the houses have also a good frontage and a good garden.

Yours obediently,

HERBERT ECCLESTON, Cert. R. San. I.

Inspector of Nuisances.

